

WHCoA Post-Event Summary Report

Tennessee

Name of Event: The Booming Population: Bridging Today with Tomorrow
“Choosing Tennessee for a Lifetime”

Date of Event: August 1-3, 2005

Location of Event: Nashville, Tennessee

Number of Persons attending: 300

Sponsoring Organization(s): Statewide Aging and Disability Service Provider Organizations; Tennessee Commission on Aging and Disability; Private Sector businesses and agencies; Tennessee Federation for the Aging; Tennessee Aging and Disability Network Agencies; Health Care Service Providers; Office of the Governor; Other Departments of State Government

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Priority Issue # 1:

Update national long-term care policy to provide choices for care and reduce the bias toward institutionalization.

Barriers: (list any barriers that may exist related to this issue)

1. Lack of a national long-term care policy to allow state and federal laws, regulations, and policies to favor non-institutional care.
2. Inadequate funding for caregivers that provide long-term care services in the home and community based settings.
3. Lack of adequate planning to meet the increased needs of the growing aging population.
4. Lack of incentives for consumers to purchase, and employers to offer, long-term care insurance options.

Proposed Solution(s): (list suggested solutions to the challenges described above)

1. Develop the aging and disability network to become the primary focal point and/or single entry point for long-term care systems responsible for assessing needs, providing service-related information, making informed choices, and linking people to services.

2. Increase funding to support caregivers and in-home services.
 3. Include language in the reauthorization of the Older Americans Act to direct resources toward consumer choice of care options.
 4. Provide federal tax breaks for long-term care insurance policy holders and employers who provide such benefits.
 5. Include language in the reauthorization of the Older Americans Act to direct resources toward consumer choice of care options.
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Priority Issue # 2:

Develop strategies that promote the values, skills and abilities of older adults and other adults with disabilities in the workforce.

Barriers: (list any barriers that may exist related to this issue)

1. Lack of technology education.
2. Lack of education relating to employment of older adults and other adults with disabilities.
3. Lack of adequate transportation to rural areas.

Proposed Solution(s): (list suggested solutions to the challenges described above)

1. Educate businesses and community to create awareness about the value of older persons and other adults with disabilities as valued employees.
 2. Increase funding to support employment of older persons and other adults with disabilities.
 3. Encourage employer-based skills and lifelong learning training and re-training.
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Priority Issue # 3:

Increase number of health care professionals (skilled and non-skilled) available for employment in facilities and home and community based services programs.

Barriers: (list any barriers that may exist related to this issue)

1. Low pay and inadequate training.
2. Lack of methods for recruitment and retention for nursing and medical programs.

Proposed Solution(s): (list suggested solutions to the challenges described above)

1. Increase funding for long-term care program employees.
 2. Develop partnerships with hospitals and other health care organizations to increase staff training opportunities.
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Priority Issue # 4:

Develop safe and secure livable communities with a variety of housing options, especially in rural areas.

Barriers: (list any barriers that may exist related to this issue)

1. Funding limitation for moderate and low-income housing options.
2. Lack of police focus for mature communities.
3. Current livable community models are inappropriate for rural areas.

Proposed Solution(s): (list suggested solutions to the challenges described above)

Identify and/or initiate funding resources for small group housing for seniors (10 or less) assisted care living facilities (ACLFs); continuing care retirement centers (CCRCs); mature senior neighborhoods; and adequate law enforcement targeted at moderate and low-income seniors in rural areas.

Priority Issue # 5:

Educate consumers about healthy diet and physical fitness.

Barriers: (list any barriers that may exist related to this issue)

1. Need motivation for individuals to practice activities that promote a healthy lifestyle.
2. Lack of sufficient health educators, physiologists, and dieticians.

Proposed Solution(s): (list suggested solutions to the challenges described above)

1. Increase education regarding the food pyramid and portion control through group locations such as senior centers and media outlets.
 2. Encourage publicity about individuals who practice healthy lifestyles.
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Priority Issue # 6:

Provide caregiver services for rural caregivers.

Barriers: (list any barriers that may exist related to this issue)

1. Limited number of service providers.
2. Lack of reliable transportation.
3. Limited research on needs of rural caregivers.

Proposed Solution(s): (list suggested solutions to the challenges described above)

1. Increase funding for the NFCSP.
 2. Support research for new ways to provide support to rural families.
 3. Create incentives to develop mobile services (adult day care and health services).
 4. Promote and educate on using technology (computer and telephone) to serve rural caregivers.
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Priority Issue # 7:

The Social Security Trust Fund must be able to support older Americans who are healthier and living longer than ever before.

Barriers: (list any barriers that may exist related to this issue)

1. Existing political and private resistance to changing the Social Security system.
2. Lack of education that Social Security was not designed to be a retiree's only source of retirement income.

Proposed Solution(s): (list suggested solutions to the challenges described above)

1. Consider raising the cap on the amount of wages subject to Social Security tax.
 2. Create a tax break or other incentives for individuals who decline receipt of Social Security.
 3. Explore appropriate ways to invest Social Security Trust Funds.
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Priority Issue # 8:

Provide adequate funding to Senior Centers for needed growth and added services.

Barriers: (list any barriers that may exist related to this issue)

1. Small government entities often lack expertise to generate operating funding for senior centers.
2. Due to lack of marketing community perceptions often result in senior centers being undervalued for the contributions to the community.

Proposed Solution(s): (list suggested solutions to the challenges described above)

1. Need increased flexibility under the Older Americans Act to use cost shares and/or sliding fee scales throughout aging programs.
2. Need to develop statewide initiatives to market senior centers and develop partnerships with private industry.